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MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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For the Year Ended
31st December, 1955.

MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1955

Members of the
Council :

Councillor S. Jenkins, J.P., Chairman
" R.C. Richards Vice-Chairman

Clr. E.C. Davies,	Clr. R.I. Edwards,	Clr. J.P. Jones,
" R.W. Anstey,	" E.M. Cowles,	" A.G. Edwards
" A.J. Roberts,	" Harry Jones,	" G. Bayliss
" B.R. Davies, J.P.	" S.W. Jones, J.P.	" B. Rogers,
" G.D. James,	" A.O. Reynolds,	" E.S. Howells
" J. Rogers,	" F.J. Cripwell.	"Brig. A.Cleeves
" N. Ballinger,		
" T. Powell,		

Clerk of the Council. B.Ll. Griffiths.

Public Health and Housing Committee.

Councillor S.W. Jones J.P., Chairman :

Clr. E.M. Cowles,	Clr. Harry Jones,
" A.J. Roberts,	" R.I. Edwards,
" F.J. Cripwell,	" E.C. Davies,
" Basil Rogers,	" A.O. Reynolds,
" Brig. A. Cleeves,	" S. Jenkins, J.P.,
" R.C. Richards,	

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health -

E.N. Dowell: M.R.C.S., LRCP, DPH.

Sanitary Inspector -

G.L. Dicks: M.S.I.A., A.R.San.Inst.
as Sanitary Inspector and Petroleum Inspector
(Whole Time).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)		54,858
Population:-	Estimated mid-year population	5,890
	Registrar General's estimate mid 1953	5,738
Number of Inhabited Houses		1,861
Rateable Value		£ 17,596
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£66. 11. 1d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	40	28	68
Illegitimate	2	1	3

In 1954 the total live Births were 102 and in 1952 there were 86.

Still Births.			
Legitimate	3	2	5

There was one still Birth in 1953.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate	1	3	4

The following gives a list of infant deaths under one year of age. giving age at and cause of death:-

(i)	Female	- 3 days	1. a. Pulmonary Haemorrhage b. Haemolytic Anaemia c. Rhesus incompatibility
(ii)	Female	- 3 days	1. a. Asphyxia Neonatorum and Prematurity.
(iii)	Male	- 5 mins.	1. a. Prematurity 28 weeks. b. Early rupture of membranes.
(iv)	Female	- 2 days	1. a. Prematurity 1 lb 8 ozs.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age in 1953.

DEATHS

			Total
Deaths	34 Males	29 Females	63

There were 60 Deaths in 1953 but there were 96 in 1951.

As in 1954, 1953 and 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion. As in 1953 there were no deaths attributed to Tuberculosis. There was one death attributed to neoplasm of the lung in 1953 and no deaths attributed to this cause in 1954.

Table I gives a classification of the cause of the death and the number attributed to each cause.

Of the total deaths 36 were 70 or over at time of death.

MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Shaftesbury House,
Monnow St.,
Monmouth.

November 1956.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Monmouth.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the Year ended 31st December 1955.

The health of the District is satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Dicks for his help and co-operation. He has been working under great difficulties.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E.N.DOWELL

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Diphtheria.

As in 1952, 1953 and 1954 there were no cases notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1954, 1953, 1952 and 1951, at the end of the year 32, 47, 59 and 54 were immunised. At the end of 1954 the numbers immunised for these years were 2, 38, 55 and 51. In 1954 the total number of live births was 102. In 1953 and 1952 the total number of live births was 92 and 86 respectively. This percentage of immunisation is still too low. It was hoped to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. 3 babies born in 1955 were immunised before the end of the year. Owing to the occurrence within a fortnight of three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in Monmouthshire, a letter from the County Medical Officer on the 28.7.55 suggested that all vaccinations and immunisations should be discontinued until the beginning of October.

On the 9. 8. 55, owing to the occurrence of poliomyelitis in the Area, a circular letter was sent to all medical practitioners in the Area asking them to co-operate with us by postponing all vaccinations and immunisations until the beginning of October.

Vaccinations and immunisations were commenced again on the 1. 10. 55.

Scarlet Fever.

Two cases were notified. Three cases were notified in 1954.

Measles.

126 cases were notified. There were no cases notified in 1954. In 1953 there were 20.

Whooping Cough.

There were 15 notifications and only 3 in 1954.
In 1951 there were 62 notifications.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough was commenced in the Area in May 1955. Children were immunised against Whooping Cough alone and in combination with Diphtheria vaccine. By the end of the year 28 children were immunised against Whooping Cough with the combined vaccine.

Poliomyelitis.

There was one notification. This occurred in a girl age 7 years and 8 months and the paralysis was slight.
No cases were notified in 1954 and 1953.

Tuberculosis. - Primary Notifications:-

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

(i)	Female	27	years	Lungs
(ii)	Female	12	years	Meninges
(iii)	Male	77	years	Lungs

There were 3 cases of lung tuberculosis in 1954 and 8 in 1953.
In 1952 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Disease	Cases Notified. Age Groups.							Total all Ages.
	Under 1 Yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over	
Diphtheria								
Scarlet Fever			1	1				2
Pneumonia				1				1
Cerebro-spinal fever								
Acute Polio-myelitis				1				1
Enteric Fever								
Encph. Lethargica								
Dysentery	1							1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Measles and German Measles	1	12	28	69	11	2	3	126
Whooping Cough		2	5	7	1			15
Erysipelas								
Other Diseases								
Total:-	2	14	34	79	12	2	3	146

Deaths in Monmouth Rural 1955

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory		
Tuberculosis, other		
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	2	2
Hypertension with heart disease		2
Other heart disease	4	3
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Pneumonia	4	
Bronchitis	3	
Congenital malformations	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
All other accidents		1
Suicide	3	
All causes	34	29

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

There was no acute shortage of water in the year under review. Gravitation supplies at Llandogo and Skenfrith were well maintained.

Bacteriological Examination of Raw Water.

Satisfactory 15 Unsatisfactory 2.

Chemical Analyses. Satisfactory 2 Unsatisfactory Nil.

With the exception of New Supply at Raglan, Trelleck and Llandenny all supplies are untreated and are not of such high degree of organic purity as to constitute a first class drinking supply.

Plumbo Solvency The waters generally are not liable to plumbo solvent action. The exception is gravitation supply at Llandogo on which the Council are to seek power under byelaws to prohibit the use of lead pipe on drinking supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Raglan. Extensions to existing sewers were completed during the year including new disposal works.

Rivers and Streams. Pollution is slight in this District

Closet Accommodation. Excepting Raglan and Llandogo, closets are mainly on the Conservancy system. The area is not populous or closely built. 51 Conversions to Water Closets were effected during the year on private premises. (Mainly of isolated nature to septic tank disposal.)

Smoke Abatement. No action was found necessary during the year in connection with smoke abatement.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. There were no registered premises in the Area.

Public Cleansing. House refuse is collected once weekly in Raglan Village and monthly in remainder of the Area (by Contract). Disposal is by tipping into disused quarries. There is no staff available to effect 'Controlled Tipping'.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no Public Baths in the Area and no privately owned baths open to the public.

Infestation. Premises are generally free from Verminous Infestation.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

No action was taken during the Year under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences. Number of Shops Inspections are included in the following Summary. (Overleaf).

SCHOOLS.

Routine inspections of Schools have been regularly carried out. The majority of Schools in the Area are situated in villages without a piped water supply and with no sewerage system.

CAMPING SITES.

Five sites were used for camping during the Year.
Three licences were issued for a camping site under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Estimated number of Campers resident in the Area at one time during 1955 = 200. The Camps were mainly of short duration for periods of 14 days and consisting mainly of scout troops and girl guides.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Nature of Visit of Inspection.	Totals.
Water Supply	615
Drainage - Sewers and Drains ...	419
Stables and Piggeries	20
Fried Fish Shops	Nil
Tents, Vans and Sheds	29
Factories	28
Bakehouses	29
Public Conveniences	24 (Inns)
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	116
Other Duties (Petroleum Acts) ...	50
Visits to Schools (Sanitary Conveniences	39

FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1938
PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.
SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT ACT).

Two premises in the Area, privately owned are Licensed by the Council as a slaughterhouse, such licensed premises being widelay separated in the Council's Area. In conformity with Regulations, Notice of Fixed Times of Slaughter has been received, indicating slaughter of animals on three days of the week. Visits of inspection now take up a considerable proportion of the Sanitary Inspector's time.

Unsound Food.

In addition to inspections at slaughterhouses, the following foodstuffs were condemned in shops (voluntary surrender):-

Tinned Ham	2[illegible] lbs.	Decomposition.
Hindquarter Beef	110 lbs.	Bone Taint.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 (Continued)

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned - In Whole or in Part:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	83	36	54	740	113	Nil
Number inspected	83	36	54	532	113	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	2	7	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	8	Nil	66	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only:-						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

156 Visits of Inspection were made to Private Slaughterhouses.

Other Visits of Inspection.

Grocers	48
Ice-Cream Premises	60
Restaurants	12
Street Vendors & Hawker's Carts	108

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1952.

There are no premises registered in the Area for Manufacture of Ice-Cream. Six premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed Ice-cream.

Visits in Connection with Sampling.

Milk - Bacteriological No samples submitted during the Year. There are three Registered Distributors in the Area, all of whom retail bottled Pasteurised Milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Notices Served during the Year.

Number of Informal Notices served.	18
Number of Informal Notices complied with.	18
Number of Statutory Notices served.	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.	Nil

Verminous Premises.

Number of Houses inspected ...	1
Number of visits paid to above houses	6
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ...	250

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Diseases	4
Visits re Disinfection ...	4
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	6

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Number of Premises inspected as a result of Notification or otherwise ...	228
Number of properties found to be infested (inclusive of 1 Agricultural Property.)	16
There were no properties seriously infested.	
Number of Infested Properties treated by Local Authority	15
Number of Notices Served in respect of treatment ...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical Power.	14	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical Power.	14	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of Building & Engineering Construction but not including outworkers Premises.)	6	Nil	Nil
Total:-	34	Nil	Nil

Section 110 - 111. OUTWORK.

There are no outworkers in the Area.

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:- Found	Remedied	Referred H.M.Insp.	Prosecutions Instituted.
Want of Cleanliness Overcrowding Unreasonable temperature-Inadequate ventilation Ineffective drainage of floors.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences. (a) insufficient (b) unsuitable or defective (c) Not seperate for Sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Smoke observations 0
Schools 39
Shops 580
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits 320

E. N. DOWELL. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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